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ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

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Flying high: National flags from 10 ASEAN countries and Japan are raised on the deck of the Fuji Maru during the voyage of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program in 2012. CABINET OFFICE JAPAN

ASEAN EMBASSIES, ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE



A shared journey of growth, progress

Shinzo Abe
PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

Over this weekend, I am privileged to be hosting the leaders of ASEAN nations at our commemorative summit, celebrating the long path ASEAN and Japan have walked together over the last 40 years.

The path of ASEAN has not been without challenges, but it has provided important lessons that resonate across the globe. The ASEAN success story has proved that investment in people always pays off. The region's accomplishments have derived from the talents of its people.

To unleash the potential of individuals, what ASEAN has done — the opening of economies coupled with democratic commitment and good governance — has proved to be a powerful panacea, providing another valuable lesson for us all.

Japan is grateful that it has been — and will always continue to be — a valued partner of ASEAN. Countless Japanese people have played important roles in the region's growth: from the engineers who helped modernize factory assembly lines, to a group of female lawyers who stayed in a member nation and gave their expertise to build the country's civil code.

Japan has grown because ASEAN has grown. Together, with our shared vision and identity, we hope that over the next 40 years we can grow even further to realize our shared future.



Tokyo conference sharpens Abe's diplomatic focus

STAFF REPORT

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is riding high. He boasts surprisingly heady approval rates among voters one year after his inauguration, as his “Abenomics” financial policies have succeeded in bringing back world attention to Japan’s recovering economy for the first time in many years.

Abe’s main interest seems to be diplomacy as he has launched numerous diplomatic overseas tours and invited foreign leaders to Tokyo at an unprecedented high pace.

In the first year, Abe traveled to as many as 27 countries and invited numerous foreign leaders to Tokyo for summits. This is almost unthinkable for Japanese prime ministers, who are often locked in parliamentary sessions at home answering the questions of opposition lawmakers.

But what has been the top priority of Abe’s frequent diplomatic journeys around the world?

“ASEAN takes top priority,” said a high-ranking government official, explaining Abe’s basic diplomacy, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Indeed, Abe’s passion for cementing ties with ASEAN countries seems rather unusual.

Abe has visited all of the 10 ASEAN member states in just over 10 months, an almost unthinkable pace for a Japanese prime minister. The 10 member



countries are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

“I don’t think any prime minister has visited so many ASEAN countries over such a short period of time. This is a feat,” a senior government official at the Prime Minister’s Office recently said.

Foreign Ministry officials in Tokyo described this year as “the year of ASEAN” for Japan, and the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit that takes place Dec. 13-15 in Tokyo will cap Abe’s diplomatic initiatives in Asia.

During the summit, Abe will “unveil a medium- to long-term vision for Japan-ASEAN cooperation,” a Foreign Ministry official said.

The Tokyo meeting was arranged to mark the 40th anniversary of Japan’s diplomatic relations with the ASEAN countries. Abe and top leaders from the 10 countries will have two spe-

cial sessions Dec. 14 at the State Guest House in Tokyo’s Akasaka district.

There will also be bilateral talks Dec. 12, 13 and 15. Abe is expected to talk to many, if not all, country leaders.

Myanmar may be one of the most important countries because “in the past few years it has been changing in political alignment,” said Robert Dujarric, director of the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, Temple University Japan.

ASEAN countries and Japan will discuss various subjects such as politics, economy, security and diplomacy, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, will definitely be on their agenda, Dujarric said.

The fact that Tokyo is hosting the commemorative summit indicates Japan treats ASEAN as a very important partner in many ways.

“Most ASEAN countries, except for Singapore, need lots of infrastructure expenditure. They need trains, roads, nuclear plants and many others,” Dujarric said of the significance of ASEAN for Japan economically.

“ASEAN is a big market. Partnering with ASEAN is a logical choice,” he said.

On Dec. 14, ASEAN leaders are also invited to meet business leaders from Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and



Welcome: The ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit is being held Dec. 13-15 at the State Guest House, Akasaka Palace, in Tokyo. CABINET OFFICE JAPAN

Industry at a luncheon party.

The annual Mekong-Japan Summit will also be held on the sidelines the same day, with the attendance of leaders from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Meanwhile the ASEAN first ladies will take part in events that will allow them to experience Japanese traditional culture. On Dec. 13, students from ASEAN countries plan to visit Japan to

have talks with Japanese students.

To explain the importance of ASEAN countries for Japan, Foreign Ministry officials stressed growing economic weight for Japanese trade and its vast direct overseas investments there.

The ASEAN countries, which boast a total population of 600 million and gross domestic product of \$2.1 trillion, are the No. 2 trade partner for Japan, behind

only China.

Japan has directly invested about ¥7.4 trillion in those countries, and major Japanese manufacturers have numerous plants, sales channels and end-customers there.

But Abe’s diplomatic approach for ASEAN countries is often seen also as part of his strategy to keep China in check as Tokyo’s relations with Beijing have been strained over the disputed Senkaku / Diaoyu islets in the East China Sea.

The importance of ASEAN countries for Abe has grown bigger than ever now as Japan deals with the soured relationship with China and South Korea as well.

The chairman’s statement of the 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit in Brunei in October read: “Japan and ASEAN are connected with the rest of the world by the broad oceans. I believe we must work together side by side to make our world one of freedom and openness, ruled not by might but by law.”

The chairman’s statement in Brunei in fact mirrors an earlier statement Abe issued in January in Indonesia to explain his Five New Principles for Japanese Diplomacy for ASEAN countries.

Abe’s keen interest in diplomacy with Southeast Asian countries also has something to do with his family background.

Abe has developed an interest in diplomacy thanks to his father, late former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, and grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who served as prime minister in 1957 and 1958.

It was Shintaro Abe who introduced his son to the political world by appointing him as his official secretary in 1982. Meanwhile, Kishi is often pointed out as Abe’s No. 1 role model as a politician as Abe apparently is copying almost all the major policies the late Kishi advocated while he was in office.

Three months after Kishi took office, he launched his first diplomatic tour to Burma (now Myanmar), India, Pakistan, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Thailand and Taiwan.

In November and December the same year, he visited southern Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. Abe seems to be trying to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps to increase Japan’s presence in Asia.

After Abe’s inauguration Dec. 26 last year, public attention was focused on which country he would visit first as prime minister because it would highlight Abe’s diplomatic priorities.

For the Japanese prime minister, the U.S. is usually the first stop, but Abe surprised the public by going to China first when he became prime minister in 2006.

On Jan. 16 this year, Abe launched his first diplomatic tour. The destinations were Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, signaling that his diplomatic emphasis is now on ASEAN states.

“It must be stated ... that Japan’s relationship that goes side by side with ASEAN is a supremely vital linchpin in terms of its importance to our diplomatic strategy,” the prime minister said in his Abe Doctrine declaration in January.

ASEAN's economic indicators

ASEAN's economic indicators at a glance

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan are marking the 40th anniversary of their cooperative relations, which began with the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan forum on synthetic rubber.

The two parties have worked together for regional and global peace, stability, development and prosperity. The business relationship has expanded steadily.

ASEAN member states — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — are major investment destinations for Japanese companies.

In 2013, Japan and ASEAN member states are holding a number of exchange projects on topics ranging from political dialogue and economy, to culture, youth and tourism. With that in mind, The Japan Times held a forum to discuss the relationship between Japan and some of the Southeast Asian countries.

At least for the first half of the 40-year cooperation, Japan was deemed a model of economic development for many of the Southeast Asian countries, which were mainly viewed by Japanese companies as manufacturing centers.

In recent years, though, the view has changed. The ASEAN region is seen as an attractive market with growing purchasing power, as it gained wealth and its education level became higher through economic growth. Such changes came as the world was changing dramatically; Japan has been suffering slow growth after the bubble economy burst and China rose to replace it as the world's second-largest economy.

Higher education and skilled

workers in Southeast Asia in recent years mean it has become an attractive labor market. Japanese and foreign makers are increasingly viewing the region as a research and development center.

Now that Chinese economic growth is said to be slowing, Japanese companies are shifting their focus again to Southeast Asia as a market with growth potential.

The gross domestic product of the ASEAN region has grown and will grow rapidly.

It was just \$357.7 billion in 1990 but surged to \$1.87 trillion in 2010, according to the ASEAN-Japan Centre, which cites data from the International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook Database. It is estimated to jump to \$4.63 trillion in 2030.

The trading volume of the ASEAN region has been increasing rapidly as well. The region's exports have been constantly going upward, \$71.73 billion in 1980, \$144.4 billion in 1990, \$426.5 billion in 2000 and \$1.497 trillion in 2010. Imports have also been rising continuously — \$65.6 billion in 1980, \$163.3 billion in 1990, \$369.0 billion in 2000 and \$955.7 billion in 2010, according to the ASEAN-Japan Centre citing IMF data.

It was only in 1990, that the ASEAN region was a net importer.

Remarkably, Japan, as a single country, had more export and import volumes than ASEAN in 1980, 1990 and 2000. But in 2010, ASEAN exports and imports surpassed those of Japan.

Over time, Japan's weight on ASEAN trading volume has thinned, due to the burst of the bubble economy in Japan at the end of 1980s and the rise of Chi-

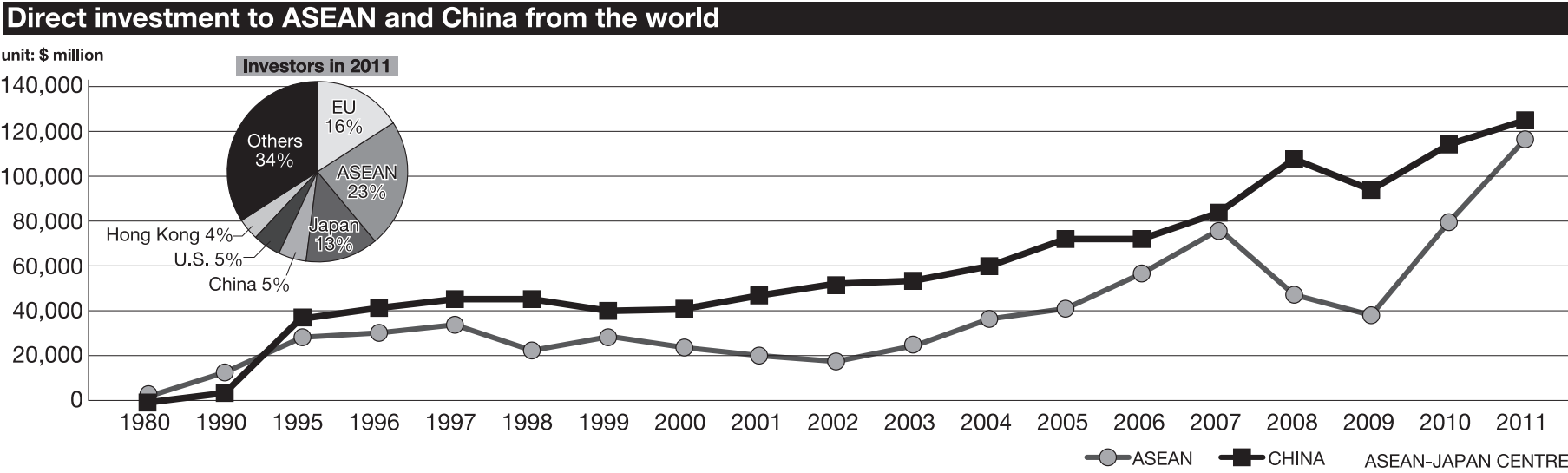
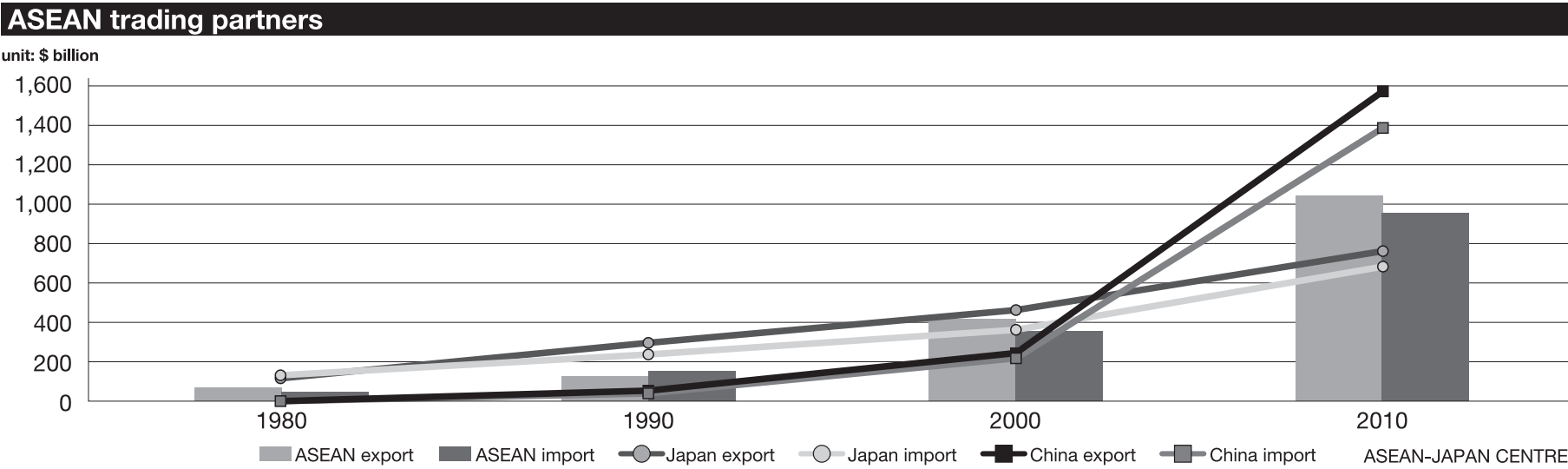
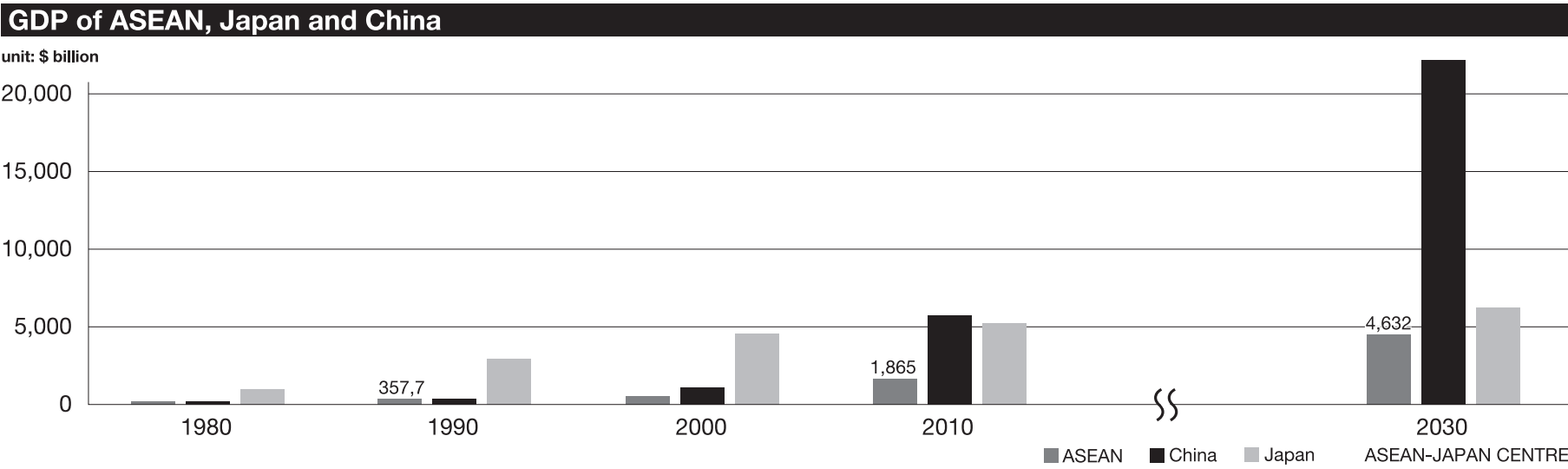
na as an economic powerhouse in recent years. Japan accounted for 30 percent of ASEAN's exports in 1980, and the percentage has been falling to 19 in 1990, 13 in 2000 and 10 in 2010. For imports, the percentage in 1980 was 22, which has changed to 23, 19 and 12.

Foreign direct investment in ASEAN countries has kept increasing since 2002, except for 2008 and 2009, during the global recession. But the recovery from 2009 shows quite a sharp increase.

Japan accounted for 13 percent of foreign direct investment in ASEAN countries in 2011, according to the ASEAN-Japan Centre, which compiled data from the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development and the ASEAN Foreign Direct Investment Statistics Database. Japan was the third-largest direct investor in the region, lagging behind other ASEAN countries, 23 percent, and the European Union, 16 percent. China and the U.S. followed Japan, each with 5 percent.

ASEAN's direct investment from Japan shows a different shaped graph. The contractions in 2008 and 2009 are not as deep as direct investment from the world. Japanese direct investment in ASEAN surged sharply in 2011 but dropped, again, sharply in 2012.

The population of the ASEAN region is also growing. The population of the region, which accounted for 9 percent of the world's population in 2012, rose from 360 million in 1980 to 590 million in 2010. It is estimated to reach 700 million in 2030, according to the ASEAN-Japan Centre, citing the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.



Strengthening ties with friendly events

In commemorating the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan cooperative relations, both parties have held a number of events.

In January, ASEAN and Japan co-hosted a kickoff reception in Jakarta to commemorate the 40-year friendship.

The reception was attended by over 370 people, including ASEAN Secretary-general Le Luong Minh, the permanent representatives of the 10 ASEAN member states and Kimihiro Ishikane, ambassador of Japan to ASEAN.

Exchanges between ASEAN and Japan began in 1973 with the establishment of an ASEAN-Japan forum on synthetic rubber. At the ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2012, the leaders agreed to organize a series of commemorative events in Japan and ASEAN countries throughout 2013, including the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit hosted by Japan this month.

The January reception was designed as an opportunity to launch the 40th anniversary at home and abroad, and strengthen the partnership between ASEAN and Japan.

There were various entertainments such as the performance of a song written to bring together the hopes and wishes for the future of the tsunami-ravaged Tohoku region.

Concurrently, the Tohoku Experience exhibition took place at a shopping mall in Jakarta, from Jan. 17 to 27, with photos and other exhibits showing the culture and lifestyles of the Tohoku region. More than 8,880 people visited the exhibition during its run.

In June, the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting took place in Brunei Darussalam, bringing together the foreign ministers of the bloc and Japan.

In his opening remarks, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida stressed that the importance of ASEAN has become increasingly great, and the relationship between Japan and ASEAN, as well as the bilateral relations between Japan and each ASEAN member state play an extremely significant role in Japan's diplomacy.

Kishida updated the other ministers on the preparations for the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, noting that over 300 events in Japan and ASEAN had already been registered this year.

The participating ministers also discussed disaster management, youth exchange and various economic partnerships between both parties, such as space exploration, medicine, environmental study and urbanization.

In October, the 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit brought heads of state and political leaders, including Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, to Brunei Darussalam.

While reconfirming the importance of the friendship between Japan and ASEAN, Abe, who also had bilateral meetings with Asian countries in Brunei Darussalam, expressed his willingness to improve ties with China amid tensions over territorial issues.

Brunei Darussalam chaired the 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit. An excerpt of the chairman's statement is on page 11.

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and welcome all delegates to Tokyo

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Brunei Darussalam / Cambodia



Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam

Landmark year for regional cooperation

Mahamud Ahmad
AMBASSADOR OF BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM

On the occasion of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo on Dec. 13-15, it is with great pleasure that I convey my respectful greetings to the valued readers of The Japan Times. I am very pleased to have been given this opportunity to participate in this ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit special supplement, which I hope will further promote better understanding of ASEAN-Japan relations.



This year, Brunei Darussalam has the honor of holding the ASEAN chairmanship for the fourth time, having previously chaired in 1989, 1995 and 2001. The theme "Our People, Our Future Together" reflects ASEAN's commitment to bring forward an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible. The successful outcome of the 22nd ASEAN Summit and the 23rd ASEAN Summit, and related summits in Brunei Darussalam in April and October, respectively, highlighted the progress toward our goal.

As well as being the chair of ASEAN this year, Brunei Darussalam also has the honor of being the co-chair of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of

Friendship and Cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

In the four decades of ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations, Japan has contributed significantly toward ASEAN's community-building processes and development. We value the friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in areas such as economic development, education, disaster management, counterterrorism and in other areas.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's announcement of the Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN Diplomacy was also welcomed. The fifth principle in particular, which calls for the promotion of exchanges among the young generations to further foster mutual understanding, is something I believe is important as it is our youths that will ensure the co-operation between ASEAN and Japan continues.

Japan's role in nurturing friendship among our youths through programs such as the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP), which has been active for 40 years, and the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS 2.0.), which was initiated by Prime Minister Abe, is very much appreciated.

It is also encouraging to note the Japanese government's active promotion of ASEAN-Japan relations, such as the recent ASEAN-Japan Music Festival. The event, which showcased the different talents from ASEAN and Japan, was honored with the attendance of Their Imperial High-

Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah: promoting regional peace, stability

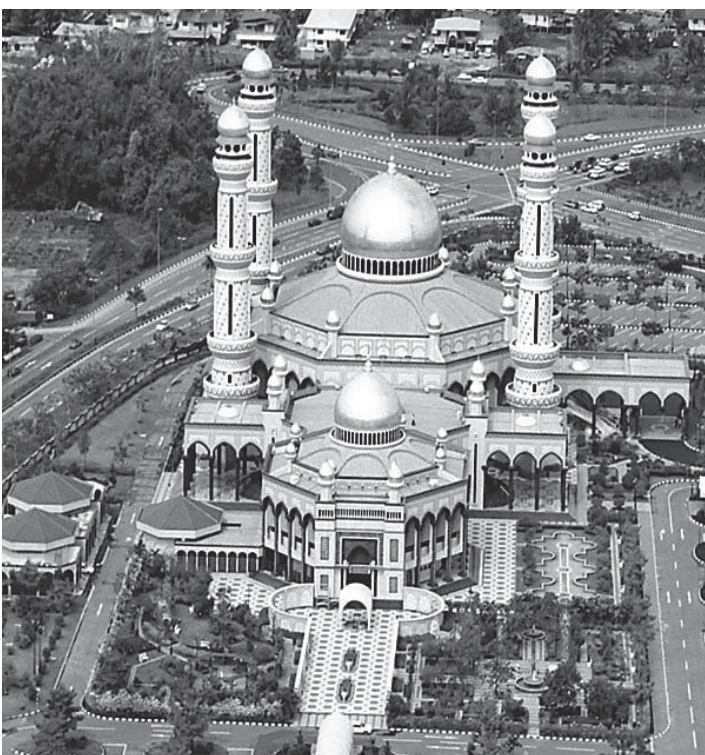
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, is the 29th sultan of Brunei Darussalam.

Since ascending to the throne in 1967, His Majesty has introduced good governance in the civil service, a quality national health service, high-quality education and stability for the country.

In 2013, Brunei Darussalam has been the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and His Majesty has been actively involved with regional and international forums in promoting peace, stability and awareness among the people of ASEAN, especially the youth, committed to the ASEAN spirit and its charter.

For the development of the country, His Majesty has introduced the Wawasan Brunei 2035 (Brunei Vision 2035), through which Brunei aims to provide its people with quality education and high skills for employment; ensure quality life; and generate a dynamic and sustainable economy by 2035.

For education, His Majesty introduced the National Education System for the 21st Century, which aspires to fulfill the demands and supply of highly skilled labor; and to realize the Brunei Vision.



Islamic tradition: (Top) The Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque is seen from the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Building in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan. (Above) The Jame Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque is another famous landmark in Brunei. EMBASSY OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

nesses Prince and Princess Akishino, and Prime Minister Abe, highlighting the close ties shared between us.

The ASEAN-Japan Centre has also been essential in bringing the people of ASEAN and Japan closer together. As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations, the ASEAN-Japan Centre in collaboration with the ASEAN embassies in Tokyo held an ASEAN Festival in October. The event gave us the opportunity to share with the Japanese people, ASEAN's diverse culture and tradition. By continuing to hold activities such as these, I hope that we can further encourage mutual understanding between the people of ASEAN and Japan.

I believe that the ASEAN member states' bilateral cooperation with Japan also plays a role in strengthening overall relations. As such, it is with great pleasure to note that Brunei Darussalam and Japan will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2014.

The relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Japan, how-

ever, dates back 10 years earlier, when we began our cooperation in the field of energy, which made Japan one of our most important trading partners. Since then, cooperation has expanded into various fields, including education, health, agriculture, renewable energy and much more.

I am very happy that we are able to celebrate two landmark events with Japan, as ASEAN-Japan and Brunei Darussalam-Japan relations. I firmly believe that our strong bilateral ties will contribute to the excellent relations between ASEAN and Japan.

I am certain that the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit will be a success with the endorsement of the Medium- to Long-term Vision, which will build on the ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations and further enhance it in the years to come.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Japanese government and people of Japan for their continued warm friendship, and I look forward to working closer together for the continued peace and prosperity of both our countries.

Energy resources: (Left) An offshore oil platform in Brunei (Below) An LNG cargo ship is loaded with one of Brunei's main products. EMBASSY OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



New fields beckon as ties turn 40

Hor Monirath
AMBASSADOR OF CAMBODIA

On this gracious occasion, I have the great pleasure and honor to extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt welcome to Samdech Akka



Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Cambodian delegation to the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and the 5th Japan-Mekong Summit in Tokyo on Dec. 13-15. This year is also significant because it sees Cambodia and Japan celebrating the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.

As we are marking the 40th

anniversary of the ASEAN-Japan relationship this year, I am pleased to note that ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation have grown hand-in-hand for the past 40 years since its inception in 1973, with a strong determination in promoting and maintaining regional peace, security, stability, and shared prosperity for the peoples of ASEAN and Japan.

Today, Japan is a strategic and indispensable economic partner of ASEAN. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's first foreign tour to ASEAN since his re-election as prime minister and the completion of his tour to all ASEAN member states, including his recent official visit to Cambodia on Nov. 16-17 this year, clearly demonstrates that Japan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Prime Minister Hun Sen: at Cambodia's helm for almost three decades

Prime Minister Hun Sen was born Aug. 5, 1952 (officially April 4, 1951), in Kampong Cham province. Upon completion of his local elementary schooling in 1965, Hun Sen came to Phnom Penh to continue his secondary education.

In 1970, Cambodia was plunged into war.

Responding to the appeal of Prince Sihanouk to Cambodians to join the war against the imperialists, at the age of 18, Hun Sen joined the struggle movement, which liberated the country April 17, 1975.

Witnessing the Pol Pot regime's policy of genocide, in 1977, Hun Sen led a movement aimed at liberating Cambodia and its people from the genocidal regime. In 1978, Hun Sen became a founding member of the United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea (UFN SK), which overthrew the Pol Pot regime in 1979, with the support of Vietnamese volunteer forces.

From 1979 to 1993, Hun Sen held

various positions in Cambodian

administrations — the People's Republic of Kampuchea and then the State of Cambodia. As foreign minister in 1979, as deputy prime minister and foreign minister from 1981 to 1985, then as prime minister and foreign minister from 1985 to 1991, Hun Sen was a key figure of the Paris peace talks, which helped to broker peace in Cambodia with the Paris Peace Agreement.

As a result of the implementation of the agreement and the 1993 national elections, from 1993 to 1998, Hun Sen served as the co-premier and then the second prime minister of the first coalition government between the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Funcinpec, the two major parties.

In July 1998, Hun Sen became the sole prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Under his leadership, Cambodia became the 10th member of the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (ASEAN).

In July 2004, the National Assembly re-elected him as prime minister and ratified the third-term coalition government.

After winning the general election of July 2008, in which the CPP won 90 of the 123 seats in the National Assembly, Hun Sen was re-elected by the fourth legislature of the National Assembly and approved by King Norodom Sihamoni as prime minister for the next five-year term (2008-2013).

As of April 1, 2011, King Norodom Sihamoni appointed Hun Sen as honorary president of Academician Members of the Royal Academy of Cambodia.

Following the election for the National Assembly in July, in the Kingdom of Cambodia, Hun Sen was reappointed for a fifth term as prime minister Sept. 23 and a new administration was formed Sept. 24.

Hun Sen is married to Bun Rany and is the father of six children.



Our Heartiest Welcome To
Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo
Hun Sen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
and the Delegation
On the occasion of
the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit
in Tokyo on 13-15 December 2013

Respectfully greeted from:

Mr. Hideo Yamada,
Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Osaka and Spouse

Mr. Seiki Takada,
Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Nagoya and Spouse

Mr. Seiroku Takizawa,
Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Hokkaido and Spouse

Cambodia

New fields beckon as ASEAN-Japan ties turn 40

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3
attaches great geostrategic importance to Southeast Asia. In terms of two-way trade and investment, Japan remains ASEAN's second-largest trading partner, with total trade amounting to over \$273 billion in 2012, and the second-largest source of FDI flow into ASEAN valued at over \$15.2 billion. Furthermore, ASEAN countries attracted about 3.7 million Japanese tourists per year, of which Cambodia alone absorbed 180,000 last year.
Japan is also the largest ODA donor to ASEAN. In recent years, we have seen remarkable support from Japan to ASEAN that has certainly contributed to narrowing the region's economic development gaps and to the efforts of ASEAN member states in realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015.
Up to the present, ASEAN has implemented around 78 percent of the measures under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint with significant progress across all the sectors.
In the context of ASEAN-

Japan relations, Cambodia has assumed the three-year role as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations since July 2012. In the same year, Cambodia took pride in successfully chairing ASEAN at the important turning point when the association is close to being integrated as the ASEAN Community by 2015.
It is very encouraging to note that almost 15 years since joining ASEAN in 1999, Cambodia is fast becoming an active member of the international community, and has been steadily transforming from a post-conflict nation to an emerging economy in Asia after a decade-long civil war and internal strife.
According to the World Bank, Cambodia ranks 10th among 174 countries for best growth during the last decade. Cambodia's GDP has significantly expanded from approximately \$3.0 billion in 1994 to an estimated \$15.6 billion in 2013, making an increase of per capita GDP to above \$1,000 this year. In line with this policy, the poverty rate has sig-

nificantly declined from 50 percent in 1993 to around 20 percent in 2012, and is expected to fall to 19 percent in 2013, ranking Cambodia among the best poverty reductions in the world.
While being reappointed as prime minister for the next five years, Samdech Techo Hun Sen announced his government's policy platform of committing to undertake comprehensive reforms, ranging from administration to legal frameworks, to ensure the better well-being and prosperity of the Cambodian people, with a vision of achieving High Middle Income Country status by 2030 and moving toward Developed Country status by 2050.
The aforementioned remarkable successes cannot be separated from Japan's extensive involvement in the peace-building process in Cambodia and its constant support along with all donor countries in the kingdom's rehabilitation and economic development. Especially, Japan remains the largest ODA donor for Cambodia despite facing critical

challenges at home.
While the leaders of ASEAN and Japan are gathering at their Commemorative Summit in Tokyo, I am certainly convinced that this is an opportune moment to explore ways to further enhance the long-standing ties and deepen the partnership in new fields of common interests in the coming decades. The expansion and further deepening of the ASEAN-Japan partnership along with all cooperation within the framework of ASEAN-led regional architecture will definitely complement ASEAN's efforts in achieving the common goal of the ASEAN Community.
Beyond Japan-ASEAN cooperation, a subregional initiative like the Japan-Mekong cooperation has been seen as a significant contribution to the success of ASEAN's integration and community building. Since the 1st Japan-Mekong Summit in December 2009 in Tokyo, steady progress has been made for the economic development and poverty reduction of this dynamic subregion through implemen-

tation of various programs and projects identified in key documents such as the Mekong-Japan Action Plan 63, Action Plan of Mekong-Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation Initiative, and Action Plan on a Decade Toward the Green Mekong.
People-to-people exchange programs have also been carried out from grass-roots to the most senior levels in broad areas of politics, security, economy, culture, tourism, disaster management and environment, which have benefited Cambodia and other Mekong countries.
Last year, the leaders adopted Tokyo Strategy 2012 for Japan-Mekong Cooperation, focusing on a comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development of the Mekong countries. This new strategy puts forward a future vision for the region and established three new pillars: Enhancing Mekong Connectivity; Developing Together; and Ensuring Human Security and Environmental Sustainability. The new pillars will develop a "New Partnership for the Common Flourishing Future" between the Mekong region countries and Japan, and will contribute to the establishment of the ASEAN Community.
It is our strong hope that the 5th Japan-Mekong Summit being held in Tokyo will certainly demonstrate the firm commitments of our leaders to pursue close cooperation and common trust in order to achieve the existing agenda for the reduction of regional development gaps and for the future of regional integration beyond the ASEAN Community 2015.
Last but not least, on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the government and people of Japan for their continuing support of Cambodia's economic development, which has significantly contributed to the well-being of the Cambodian people and the kingdom's economic integration into the region.



Honored friends: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (left) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe inspect a guard of honor at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh on Nov. 16 during Abe's visit to Cambodia. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

Japan, Cambodia leaders look to future on anniversary of ties

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on Nov. 16-17 at the invitation of Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Royal Government of Cambodia. During his visit, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Hun Sen held a summit. The two leaders celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cambodia, and shared a commitment to further broadening the bilateral relationship, based on the robust cooperative relationship to date since the days of the Cambodian peace process as well as the "New Partnership" established between the two countries. Areas for further cooperation will include the following:

1. Political and security issues

Building on Japan's contri-

bution to date to the peace and stability of the region, including by playing a leading role in the Cambodian peace process, Prime Minister Abe elaborated his security policy to proactively contribute even further to the peace and stability of the region, and the international community from the perspective of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the long-standing principle of international cooperation. Prime Minister Hun Sen highly praised Japan's achievement as a peaceful nation and supported Japan's further contribution.
The two leaders decided to further enhance dialogue on political and security issues, using existing forums such as politico-military dialogue. They also decided to advance further cooperation between the defense authorities of both countries, in-

cluding through capacity-building assistance.
2. Democracy and rule of law
Prime Minister Hun Sen reiterated his resolve to continue to make every effort in strengthening good governance by forging ahead with various reforms, such as strengthening democratic institutions through electoral reforms, as the prime minister announced Sept. 25, and enhancing the rule of law through taking anticorruption and other measures. Prime Minister Abe expressed his expectation that the post-election situation will be normalized expeditiously through dialogue and cooperation among the parties concerned, and nation building will be advanced on the basis of national reconciliation. Prime Minister Abe announced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



National symbol: The Angkor complex, of which Angkor Wat is the most famous temple and the national symbol of Cambodia, has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1992. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



Our Heartiest Welcome To Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Delegation On the occasion of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo on 13-15 December 2013

*Respectfully greeted from:
The Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka and
its Honorary Consul Dr. Haruhisa Handa*



The Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka is honored to have developed the following activities:

- ❖ Visa issuance
- ❖ Promotion of Japanese tourism according to the agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Honorary Consulate of Cambodia in Fukuoka
- ❖ Organizing cultural events in Fukuoka to showcase Cambodian arts and culture
- ❖ Introduction of Cambodia to the young people in the Kyushu and Okinawa regions to promote their interest in building bridges between Japan and Cambodia



Haruhisa Handa
Honorary Consul of
the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka,
Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia
with the rank of Senior Minister



Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka

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Cambodia

Japan, Cambodia leaders look to future on ties’ anniversary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4
Japan's readiness to assist these reform efforts.
The two leaders reaffirmed that they will continue to work together for the smooth progress of the trials in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, looking toward their successful completion in the future. In this connection, Prime Minister Hun Sen appreciated Japan's significant contribution to the trials to date, both in terms of resource mobilization and capacity development.

3. Economic relations and development cooperation

Prime Minister Hun Sen appreciated Japan's long-standing development cooperation to Cambodia, including through official development assistance, in areas such as socioeconomic infrastructure, agriculture, education, human resource development, health, women and governance. Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to continue Japan's assistance in those areas of Cambodia, which is full of future economic development potential. The two leaders also concurred on the importance of steadfast development of the South Economic Corridor (SEC), from the perspective of strengthening connectivity in the Mekong region.

They shared the view that land mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the Cambodian civil war period still scattered throughout the country constitute an obstacle to Cambodia's economic and social development, and reaffirmed the importance of assistance for the removal of land mines and UXO.

They decided to strengthen cooperation toward enhancement of health and medical care in Cambodia, including through utilizing Japan's advanced medical technologies and systems.

They welcomed an increase in investment by Japanese companies in Cambodia and shared the view that further improvement of the investment environment in Cambodia, by using

platforms such as the Japan-Cambodia Public and Private Sector Joint Meeting, is essential for facilitating more investment. Prime Minister Hun Sen stated that Cambodia would continue to carry out efforts in order to achieve an environment more conducive to investment, and that he would hope to see the participation of Japanese companies in the development of advanced urban infrastructure in the medium to long term.

4. People-to-people and cultural exchanges

Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to conduct exchange projects with approximately 3,000 participants in the next five years, by taking advantage of various exchange programs such as JENESYS 2.0. Prime Minister Hun Sen welcomed Japan's initiative.

The two leaders praised the measures taken respectively to ease visa requirements for each country's nationals, in order to widen opportunities for people-to-people exchange.

They also decided to make further efforts for generating more demand and improving relevant conditions, including examining the possibility to conclude an air services agreement, in order to facilitate direct flight services between the two countries in the future.

They welcomed the successful outcome of cooperation for the conservation and restoration of the Angkor monuments, and decided to advance exchange and cooperation in the field of arts, culture and sports, as well as Japanese-language education, in order to further strengthen the mutual understanding of both countries.

5. Cooperation in addressing regional and global issues

The two leaders decided to promote further cooperation toward regional and global peace and prosperity.

Prime Minister Hun Sen confirmed his participation in the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and the Mekong-Japan

Summit to be held in December in Tokyo. They decided to work closely with each other for a successful outcome of these summits. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe extended an invitation to make the trip to Japan an official bilateral visit, which Prime Minister Hun Sen accepted.

They underscored the importance of settling maritime disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in order to establish the principle of the rule of law in the Asia-Pacific region. They expressed their expectation on an early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct (COC) that contributes to the effective settlement of conflicts in the South China

Sea.
They urged North Korea to fully comply with its obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and commitments under the Sept. 19, 2005, Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks, and to take concrete actions for its denuclearization. They decided to cooperate with each other toward the resolution of the abductions issue.

Prime Minister Abe expressed gratitude for Cambodia's continued support for Japan's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. The two leaders shared the view that they should work actively together to achieve an early reform of the council, in view of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in 2015.

Phnom Penh
Nov. 16, 2013



Regional talks: Cambodia hosts the 21st ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Phnom Penh on Nov. 19, 2012. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

Our Heartiest Welcome To
Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo
Hun Sen
Prime Minister
of the Kingdom of Cambodia
and the Delegation
On the occasion of the
ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit
in Tokyo on 13-15 December 2013
Respectfully greeted from:

Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association
Mr. Tetsuo Kitamura, *Chief Executive Officer*
Mr. Tadasu Kikuchi, *Acting President*

Toyama-Cambodia Friendship Association
Mr. Junichi Takata, *Chairman*
Mr. Yoshiaki Takai, *Vice Chairman*
Mr. Kazuo Takagishi, *Vice Chairman*
Mr. Toyohiko Ise, *Vice Chairman*

The Saitama-Cambodia Friendship Association
Mr. Masao Ichimura, *Chairman*

Our Heartiest Welcome To
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and the Delegation on the occasion of
The ASEAN – Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo
13 – 15 December 2013



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Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
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Indonesia

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Muhammad Lutfi
AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA

For many of us, the end of the year is traditionally a moment of reflection. It is the time for us to take a step back and take a hard look at what we have done so far, what lessons we have learned and how we can do better in the years ahead.

And so is the case with the Indonesia-Japan relationship. In fact, 2013 provides additional momentum for us, as it marks the 55th anniversary of our bilateral relations. Even more, within the wider framework of ASEAN, this year also marks the 40th anniversary of ASEAN's co-operation and partnership with Japan.

And in this context, all leaders of ASEAN countries, including President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, will gather here in Tokyo on Dec. 13-14, not only to celebrate and commemorate this important partnership that we have with Japan, but also to set a new vision for enhanced cooperation ahead.

Together with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, they will assess the strength of our partnership. They



Landmark: Located in Central Jakarta, the Selamat Datang Monument features the bronze statues of a man and a woman waving a welcome, and was created by Indonesian sculptor Edhi Sunarso in 1961. JAKARTATOURLS.COM

will discuss how we can build upon our accomplishment to make further progress. They will identify a set of priorities for future cooperation that will benefit all our peoples. So that together, ASEAN and Japan will achieve mutual progress and common prosperity.

Indeed, Indonesia is proud to have been a reliable partner for Japan in a wide range of issues. And furthermore, as a founding

member of ASEAN, Indonesia is pleased that ASEAN's partnership with Japan continues to grow in scope and in depth.

Let me start with a reflection upon our bilateral relations.

It needs no further telling that the relationship between Indonesia and Japan is vast and deep. In fact, I cannot think of any field where there is no cooperation between our two countries.

But what I want to highlight

here is how the relationship has grown more and more mature. Years ago, we started with a donor-recipient kind of framework. Now we have reached the level where each of us can learn and benefit from the other.

In the economic field, Indonesia's continued economic growth has significantly enlarged the size of the country's middle class, which is expected to reach 150 million people in 2014, out of the total population of 240 million. This has provided Japan with a new and exciting business opportunity. While previously Indonesia served more as a production base for Japanese investors, now we offer double benefits: production base and market base. While previously Japanese investments in Indonesia consisted mostly of labor-intensive manufacturing industries, now even Japanese restaurants have opened their franchises in the country.

In this regard, we are pleased that Japanese investments in Indonesia have grown exponentially. In 2010, total realization of Japanese investment was \$713 million. Now, it has grown by more than 500 percent to \$3.6 billion in 2013 (January-September). That makes Japan the biggest foreign investor in Indonesia this year, on top of Singapore, the U.S., South Korea and the U.K.

We are also pleased to note the growing confidence of Japanese business sectors in our economic potential. Very recently, JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) in its annual survey ranked Indonesia first as the most prospective destination for Japanese companies' overseas business expansion. That same survey has continuously upgraded Indonesia's position over the years — we were fifth in 2011, third in 2012 and now first.

But the relationship between our two countries is much more than economy, trade and investment. For me, the real strength of our bilateral relationship lies in people-to-people contact. And again, let's take a look at some numbers.

A poll by the British Broadcasting Corp. this May reveals that 82 percent of Indonesians surveyed have very favorable views about Japan. In fact, Indonesia ranks highest of all the countries surveyed who have the most favorable view about Japan.



President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia

Traditionally, Indonesia, and especially Bali, has been a favorite holiday destination for Japanese people. However, these last few years we have been witnessing another interesting trend, where Japan's popularity as a tourism destination for Indonesians has been growing significantly as well. In 2010, about 80,000 Indonesian tourists visited Japan. This year, more than 108,000 Indonesian visitors have come to Japan up to October.

For me, this reflects two positive developments. The first is the growing prosperity of Indonesians, and the second is the fact that more and more Indonesians are interested in getting to know about Japan, its people and its culture. This trend is also reflected in the fact that Indonesia now ranks second, after China, in terms of the number of students who learn Japanese as a foreign language.

It seems to me that such attraction is mutual. Those of you who live in Tokyo might recall the colorful and energetic "Festival Indonesia" last September, which was attended by more than 20,000 people. Those who live in Jakarta will recall the successful and fun holding of the Sumo Tournament in Jakarta

this August.

The same story can be found within the ASEAN Framework. What started mostly as cooperation in the economic and technical fields has grown into a vast framework of cooperation that encompasses a wide range of issues, from trade to health, disaster management to culture.

Perhaps a very clear example of the depth of the ASEAN relationship with Japan can be found in the aftermath of the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami. ASEAN, at that time under Indonesia's chairmanship, feeling a strong sense of friendship with Japan, took the lead in mobilizing international solidarity through the holding of the Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta on April 9, 2011.

It is thus truly fitting that we will conclude this momentous year with a very important summit, the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, that will provide us with a golden opportunity to renew our commitment to friendship and solidarity for mutual progress and common prosperity.

Season's greetings, and my best wishes for a happy, peaceful and prosperous new year!

Indonesian President Yudhoyono

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono won over voters in Indonesia's first direct presidential elections in 2004 and was inaugurated Oct. 20 that year. He was re-elected in a landslide, with over 60 percent of the vote, in July 2009.

Yudhoyono was born into a simple home in Pacitan, East Java, on Sept. 9, 1949. After graduating from high school, Yudhoyono followed his father into a military career and graduated from the Indonesian Military Academy in 1973, receiving the prestigious Bintang Adhi Makayasa medal for graduating at the top of his class.

In the 1980s, Yudhoyono was sent to the United States for military training. While there, he also obtained a master's degree in business management from Webster University in St. Louis.

He was Indonesia's chief military observer in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995-96, and later held territorial commands in Jakarta and in southern Sumatra. He was appointed chief of the armed forces' social and political affairs staff in 1997, and was known in the media as the "Thinking General" due to his popular ideas and concepts in reforming the military, and the nation.

He retired from active service April 1, 2000, due to his appointment as a government minister, and received his doctorate in agricultural economics from the Bogor Institute of Agriculture on Oct. 3, 2004.

Yudhoyono was appointed mines and energy minister in the government of President Abdurrahman Wahid in 2000 but was soon promoted to the key position of minister for security and political affairs. One of his chief tasks was to devise a means for ensuring that the military played a much reduced role in Indonesian politics, a goal very much in line with his reformist ideas on the future of the Indonesian military and a view he has held since his days in the army policy center.

"Since 1988, the military has decided to stay out of day-to-day politics," Yudhoyono has noted. "The basic ideas of military reform are to go back to the role and function of the military as a defense force, and move them away from politics systematically. The trend is moving in such a way that there is no so-called 'dual function' of the military, there is no so-called 'social and political mission' for the military."

Yudhoyono was reappointed minister of security and political affairs by President Megawati Sukarnoputri in 2001. Following the October 2002 Bali bombing, he oversaw the hunt for and arrest of those responsible, and gained a reputation in Indonesia and abroad as one of the few Indonesian politicians serious about the war on terrorism.

During his candidacy for the presidency, Yudhoyono put forward broad policies for the future of Indonesia, and his manifesto during the campaign was built on four pillars: prosperity, peace, justice and democracy.

Yudhoyono's reputation for integrity, his strong personality and excellent communication skills made him the front-runner throughout the campaign. He won the second round of the 2004 elections with 60.8 percent of the vote. Soon after his inauguration as the fifth president of the Republic of Indonesia at the People's Consultative Assembly in Jakarta on Oct. 20, Yudhoyono spoke of his commitment to the people of Indonesia, noting that he had received the mandate directly from the people and that he was determined to act not only as the president of Indonesia but also as the president of Indonesians.

He promised to maintain this noble political contract with the people and dedicate all his time and energy to promoting and protecting the peace and prosperity of every Indonesian.



Place of worship: People make their way to a ceremony at Besakih Temple in eastern Bali, Indonesia. AHMAD ARIF

A Very Warm Greeting
to welcome His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,
President of the Republic of Indonesia,
to the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit
13-15 December 2013

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NARITA	GA881	11:00-17:55	→	DENPASAR	GA880	00:50-08:50	→	NARITA	A333
HANEDA	GA887	01:00-07:40	→	DENPASAR	GA886	15:35-23:30	→	HANEDA	A332
OSAKA	GA883	11:00-17:10	→	DENPASAR	GA882	00:50-08:30	→	OSAKA	A333
* OPERATE DAILY									
OSAKA	GA889	12:00-17:05	→	JAKARTA	GA888	01:00-09:55	→	OSAKA	A332
* OPERATE FRI, WED, THU, SAT									

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Laos / Malaysia



Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Laos PM Thongsing Thammavong's long years of dedicated service

Prime minister Thongsing Thammavong was born April 12, 1944, in Houaphanh province in eastern Laos.

In 1959, Thongsing joined the revolutionary movement led by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) while working as a teacher.

From 1963 to 1982, Thongsing was involved in education administration. Meanwhile, he joined the LPRP in 1967.

In 1975, the Lao People's Democratic Republic was established. From 1982 to 1983, Thongsing was alternate member of the Party Central Committee; president of the Committee for Press, Newspaper and Radio, Ministry of Culture; and Training Board of the Party Central Committee.

From 1984 to 1988, Thongsing was cultural minister. From 1989 to 1991, Thongsing was secretary of the Party Committee and vice president of the People's Supreme Assembly of II Legislature.

From 1991 to 1992, he served as acting president of the People's Supreme Assembly of II Legislature.

From 1992 to 2002, Thongsing was a Politburo member of the fifth and sixth Party Congress; personnel committee head of the Party Central Committee and standing member of the Party's Politburo.

From 2002 to 2006, Thongsing was Politburo member of the seventh Party Congress; secretary of the Party Committee of Vientiane and mayor of Vientiane.

From 2006 to 2010, Thongsing was Politburo member of the eighth Party Congress; member of the National Assembly of the sixth Legislature; president of the National Assembly of the sixth Legislature.

In 2011, Thongsing became prime minister of the Lao PDR.

ASEAN, Japan grow ever closer

Datuk Shahrudin Md. Som
AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA

I would like at the outset to express my utmost gratitude to The Japan Times for its effort in undertaking this special publication on the occasion of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, which will be held in



Tokyo on Dec. 13-15. This undertaking certainly will provide the opportunity for ASEAN and Japan to further promote the understanding between our respective nationals on the importance to continue nurturing the strong bond between Tokyo and ASEAN capitals, including Putrajaya.

Since the establishment of the first informal dialogue between ASEAN and Japan in 1973, significant progress has been made in our relations and cooperation, spanning the areas of political-security, economic-financial, to the sociocultural. ASEAN and Japan have together faced many challenges in the past and Japan has not only been supportive of ASEAN but has also become a very important strategic partner. The level of trust and confidence between ASEAN and Japan, which has grown from strength to strength over the last four decades, has certainly contributed substantially to the sustaining of regional peace, stability, progress and prosperity.

Although the formal dialogue between ASEAN and Japan was established in the early 1970s, Japan has indeed been a valued partner and friend of ASEAN even since our region began its journey down the path toward development back in the early 1960s, and it has remained so since. Many of us in ASEAN have benefited from the financial and technical assistance extended by Japan, either through government-to-government mechanisms or public-private partnerships between the respective governments of ASEAN and the various Japanese pri-

vate companies. Japanese ODA has helped to build the much-needed infrastructure, including roads, bridges, ports and airports across the region. Technical assistance from institutions like JICA, JETRO, IDE and Japanese foundations have nurtured our capabilities, and FDI from Japan in industries such as textiles, electrical and electronics as well as automotive has certainly helped jump-start our national industries.

The Japanese economic co-operation strategy implemented by many of its companies in the 1980s to 1990s has without doubt contributed to the economic prosperity of the ASEAN region for the past several decades. Japanese companies have used ASEAN economies such as Malaysia as destinations for its industrial relocations for the past three decades especially in view of the low cost of production offered by the respective ASEAN nations. The practice of this "cost leadership principle" at the beginning of the 1990s has then been added to by "product differentiation" through an economic integration strategy as evidenced by the relocation of industries, especially the automotive industry, and electronic and electrical machinery industry in the various ASEAN nations. Currently, many Japanese companies have become resident companies of the many host countries in ASEAN, including Malaysia. This is a clear testament that the ASEAN-Japan economic relationship has been deepened and is generating prosperity to both sides.

The positive effects brought forward by the close economic partnership between Japan and the ASEAN region are also manifested vibrantly in bilateral trade and investment, as well as tourism.

In the case of Malaysia, our bilateral trade with Japan for the past five years has recorded continued growth, with the exception in 2009 due to the global economic and financial situation. Exports especially have been trending upward since the implementation of the Malaysia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (MJEPA) in 2006. For 2012, overall trade with Japan amounted to \$50.53 billion, which is a 2.57 percent increase over that of the previous year's \$49.26 billion. This comprised exports to Japan valued at \$32.83 billion and imports from Japan worth \$17.7 billion, making Japan the third-largest trading partner of Malaysia for 2011.

As regards investment, Japan continued to be the largest source of foreign investments in Malaysia in 2012, with approved investments of \$912.7 million in 62 projects. In terms of people-to-people exchange, despite the economic slowdown last year, tourist arrivals from Japan to Malaysia in 2012 were relatively encouraging, with 470,008 arrivals, which is an increase of 21.5 percent as compared to the previous year.

Notwithstanding those re-



Prime Minister Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak of Malaysia

Malaysian prime minister's profile

Najib Razak was born into politics. His father and uncle were prime minister. When his father died he became the youngest MP in Malaysia's history in 1976, and has since held many major ministerial portfolios. When he became prime minister in April 2009, critics called him the ultimate insider. But he has taken many by surprise, implementing the most far-reaching political and economic reforms since Malaysia's independence.

The prime minister has, for example: repealed the colonial-era Internal Security Act, which permitted indefinite detention without trial; ended Malaysia's 60-year State of Emergency; introduced measures to increase media freedom, such as scrapping restrictions on newspaper publishing licenses; reformed the Universities and University Colleges Act to allow undergraduates to participate in political activities; created the Peaceful Assembly Act, for the first time enshrining in law the right to peaceful protest; announced the repeal of the Sedition Act to strengthen freedom of speech; repealed the Banishment Act; repealed the Restricted Residences Act; and implemented various electoral reforms.

The prime minister has also introduced the "1 Malaysia" concept, stressing the importance of national unity regardless of race or religious belief. 1 Malaysia has also delivered improvements on the ground. For example, more than 1.5 million people have passed through new 1 Malaysia health clinics, where anyone can receive treatment for any condition for about 30 cents.

In terms of foreign policy, the prime minister has called for a new global Movement of the Moderates to combat extremism, attracting support from U.S. President Barack Obama and U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, among others. In 2011, Najib Razak became the first Muslim head of government to unequivocally condemn suicide bombing and label it as un-Islamic. He has also contributed to the coalition effort in Afghanistan by sending in female Muslim doctors.

The prime minister has implemented the most far-reaching political and economic reforms since Malaysia's independence. His Government Transformation Programme has fundamentally changed the provision of government services – improving education, widening access to healthcare, developing rural infrastructure, expanding public transport, reducing poverty, cutting crime and corruption and bringing down the cost of living. His Economic Transformation Programme has significantly liberalised the economy – creating more than 300,000 jobs, raising living standards, encouraging foreign investment and turning Malaysia into one of Asia's most dynamic and successful economies. Najib Razak was returned to office last May, winning Malaysia's 13th general election, where he stressed the importance of national unity and working for the betterment of all Malaysians.

Kenthong Nuanthasing
AMBASSADOR OF LAOS

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations. ASEAN commends the achievements made in the relationship over the past 40 years.



As ASEAN's first dialogue partner to establish informal dialogue relations in 1973, Japan has become an important strategic partner of ASEAN. Over the past four decades, we have witnessed great achievements in co-operation covering political and security, economic, social and cultural areas that have contributed to narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, building an ASEAN Community, as well as maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the world.

One of the most remarkable achievements is ASEAN-Japan co-operation in trade and economic areas. As a result, Japan is ASEAN's second-largest trading partner with total trade of \$262.4 billion in 2012, and second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) for ASEAN with a share of nearly one-fifth of total inward investments to ASEAN in 2012.

In addition, Japan is one of ASEAN's active dialogue partners in the area of connectivity. In support of the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), Japan established a Task Force on Connectivity, which consists of relevant Japanese ministries, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Keidanren and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), with the aim of promoting Japan's participation in the implementation of the MPAC and interaction with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee



Worship: Built in 1818 on the orders of King Anouvong, Wat Si Saket is a Buddhist monastery temple in Vientiane. EMBASSY OF LAOS

(ACCC). This will, in turn, help to further narrow the development gap within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and other countries, thereby contributing significantly to ASEAN's efforts to establish an ASEAN Community by 2015.

In order to further enhance ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations in the years to come, ASEAN and Japan will need to double the efforts in the following aspects:

ASEAN and Japan will need to continue to strengthen friendship and cooperation in order to further advance ASEAN-Japan cooperation to a higher plane. At the same time, we will increase cooperation in addressing climate change, food security and natural disasters, and in maintaining regional security and stability, as well as promoting peace and prosperity in the region and the world at large. All this will lay a solid foundation for the medium- to long-term ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations.

We should strengthen ASEAN-Japan cooperation on infrastruc-

ture development that will facilitate trade, investment and services with support from Japan through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.

We should also enhance the role of the ASEAN-Japan Centre to promote trade, investment and tourism between ASEAN and Japan, and encourage Japan's business community to explore business opportunities in the ASEAN member states, especially in the new ASEAN member states. In addition, the Lao PDR welcomes and encourages investors from Japan to explore investment opportunities, and increase their presence in the Lao PDR in the coming years.

Given the importance of human resource development and capacity building, Japan should consider increasing assistance in human resource development in various disciplines in accordance with the actual needs of each ASEAN member state, especially to the new ASEAN member states as well as to continue sup-

port and assistance to the CLMV countries in upgrading the capacity of junior government officials through the attachment program at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the government and people of the Lao PDR, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the government and people of Japan for the valuable assistance and support extended to the Lao PDR, especially in the areas of infrastructure development, rural development and poverty reduction, clearance of the unexploded ordnances (UXO), and human resource development by offering scholarships to undertake studies at various levels as well as short-term vocational training. All this has made significant contribution not only to the socioeconomic development of the Lao PDR, but also to its preparation for the ASEAN Community that is set to be announced at the end of 2015.



Modern and traditional: The Petronas Twin Towers dominate Kuala Lumpur. TOURISM MALAYSIA

Heartiest Welcome

to His Excellency

Thongsing Thammavong,

Prime Minister of

the Lao People's Democratic Republic,

on the Occasion of

the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

JAPAN-LAOS ASSOCIATION

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Former Ambassador to Lao PDR

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Hearties Welcome

to His Excellency

Mohammad Najib bin

Tun Haji Abdul Razak,

Prime Minister of Malaysia,

on the Occasion of

the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

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markable trade and investment statistics, there is huge potential for collaboration between Japanese and Malaysian as well as other ASEAN nations' corporations to explore the opportunities arising from the new growth sectors. In the case of Malaysia, as we have now embarked on a journey to transform our economy and to enable us to emerge as a developed, high-income nation by 2020, we certainly hope that Japan would continue to play a pivotal role in helping us to achieve this goal as much as it has helped us in transforming our country from an agricultural to an industrial economy in the last few decades.

Specifically, we strongly hope Japan would actively participate in our Economic Transformation Program (ETP) that was launched in October 2011 and which includes 131 entry-point projects worth \$444 billion that are expected to create 3.3 million high-quality jobs. The projects that present equal opportunities for the participation of Japanese companies include financial and business services, green technology, halal food industry, ICT, health care and energy.

Given that Malaysia, and I am sure our other respective ASEAN neighbors as well, is committed to remain a profitable destination for foreign companies that make our country their home, driving and incentivizing Malaysia as well as the ASEAN-Japan private-sector partnership will continue to be our focus in our relations now and in the coming years, strengthening the strong ties

between our nations.

In pursuing closer economic relations between ASEAN and Japan, as well as between the respective ASEAN nations with Japan, and taking into account the constantly changing environment in the region, Malaysia's experience in the implementation of its 30-year "Look East Policy" could certainly be emulated. In this connection, I wish to underline that as the acquisition of skills, knowledge and values have been central to the success of ASEAN-Japan co-operation, these must therefore be applied further by widening the net, including SMEs involvement in focused areas such as green technology, key technical services and other high-value sectors. In addition, future programs between ASEAN and Japan should be more targeted and closely linked to specific outcomes.

In concluding, I would like to reaffirm once again that Malaysia truly appreciates the support and assistance provided by Japan to our region, and we certainly hope this time-tested mutually beneficial relationship will be enhanced further.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations, Malaysia shares the belief that it would be opportune for ASEAN and Japan to introduce new initiatives that could be undertaken by both sides in elevating our relationships to new heights. In this regard, Malaysia certainly looks forward to the successful convening of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo.

Myanmar/Philippines



President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Historic ties continue to prosper

Khin Maung Tin
AMBASSADOR OF MYANMAR

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, I would like to extend, on behalf of the people and government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, my warmest congratulations to the governments and people of Japan and ASEAN member countries.

ASEAN and Japan's cooperative partnership began in 1973 with the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan Forum. Looking at the history, as early as the 14th century, the Kingdom of the Ryukyu, the previous name for the islands of Okinawa, traded with Thailand. In the 16th century, the seaborne trade in vermilion seals was active and as many as 1,000 Japanese lived in Ayuthaya, the Thai capital of that period, and a similar number in Hoi An, a port in central Vietnam that prospered in east-west trade. And Japanese businesses have been interested in Myanmar's natural resources since long ago. Rice, cotton and lead were initial exports from Myanmar to Japan, and cotton clothes were imported. At the beginning of the 1920s, a Japanese consulate opened in Rangoon (now Yangon), and Japanese guest houses, shops and restaurants began to operate. Since that time, there has been a long history of relations between Japan and the ASEAN region.

Looking to the present, this year marks the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and the two sides are holding an ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit this month, which provides a platform to explore ways to further



Towering edifice: Built in the mid-12th century, Thatbyinnyu Temple towers above the monuments of the ancient capital of Bagan. EMBASSY OF MYANMAR

enhance cooperation between ASEAN member states and Japan, and maintain their close economic ties. On Oct. 16, the ASEAN-Japan Summit was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, and provided ways to further develop bilateral relations. It was attended by all heads of state/governments of ASEAN countries and His Excellency Shinzo Abe, prime minister of Japan.

Japan is one of ASEAN's significant partners, and plays an important role in helping the group to develop its economic and industrial capabilities, and to narrow the region's development gaps. Numerous programs have been created since 1977, when Japan declared its intention to enhance heart-to-heart relations with ASEAN, that have led to close ties between peoples and mutual trust, which is vital to the ASEAN-Japan partnership. Japan's growth has brought benefits to ASEAN over the years and Prime Minister Abe's growth

President U Thein Sein leads Myanmar toward democracy

President U Thein Sein was born April 20, 1945, in Ngaputaw Township in the Ayeayawaddy region, southwest Myanmar. He joined the army in 1963 and graduated from the Defense Services Academy with a bachelor of arts degree in 1967. He served in various capacities up to the rank of brigadier general from 1967 to 1995. From 1996 to 2000, he served as commander, Triangle Region Command, with the rank of major general. From 2001 to 2006, he served as adjutant general with the rank of lieutenant general. In 2007, he served in the office of the commander in chief (army) with the rank of general. Sein also served as chairman of the Kalay District Peace and Development Council in 1988, and as a member of the State Peace and Development Council in 1997. He served as a secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council in 2003 and as secretary-1 in 2004. In 2008, he was appointed as acting prime minister. In October 2008, he became prime minister of the Union of Myanmar and served to March 2011. In 2010, he retired from the army and became chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party. At the general election of Nov. 7, 2010, he was a candidate representing Zabuthiri Township Constituency in Naypyitaw and was elected as a representative of the Prithu Hluttaw, the Lower House of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the bicameral legislature of Myanmar. On Feb. 4, 2011, Sein was elected president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the Presidential Electoral College of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He was sworn in March 30, 2011. He is married to Daw Khin Win and has three daughters. He visited Japan in 2009 as prime minister to attend the first Mekong-Japan Summit.

Partners driving regional growth

Manuel M. Lopez
AMBASSADOR OF THE PHILIPPINES

For a bilateral relationship that has for decades been one of Asia's most vigorous and robust, 2013 will be remembered as the year that the Philippines-Japan Strategic Partnership truly soared.



H.E. President Benigno S. Aquino III is making the third visit of his landmark presidency to Japan to hold official talks with H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, take part in the celebration of 40 years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and engage the growing Filipino community in Japan and the Philippines' partners in government and business. This comes on the heels of Prime Minister Abe's momentous visit to Manila in July, and the two leaders' most recent bilateral summit in Brunei in October, on the sidelines of the 23rd ASEAN Summit and related meetings. The bonds between the Philippines and Japan, two key maritime nations in the Asia-Pacific's borders, are strong, long-standing and multifaceted. They have been shaped by, among others, history, geography, regional politics and mutually beneficial economic cooperation. But more importantly, these ties draw from an adherence to shared values — democracy, free market principles, peace, the rule of law — and continue to be shaped by common strategic interests, and a shared recognition of the global and regional challenges of our time.

This friendship has come through in times of peace. The fruits of Philippine-Japan engagement are evident in the two countries' ongoing economic upheaval. Prime Minister Abe is spearheading bold policies that are sparking Japan's revival, and inspiring domestic and international confidence in Japan, which remains one of the world's economic and technological powerhouses. The Philippines, certainly, is experiencing a solid socioeconomic revival under President Aquino that has defied global economic headwinds and has turned the country into a key growth engine for the region. The Philippines has been riding the momentum of higher than 7 percent growth for several quarters. In the first half of 2013, the country posted an impressive GDP growth rate of 7.6 percent, edging out other major Asian economies. This trend continues with the posting of 7 percent GDP growth for the third quarter, in yet another affirmation of President Aquino's transformational leadership and philosophy: that good governance translates to good economics. The Philippines has entered an era of sustained political stability and shifted to a higher growth trajectory, the likes of which has never been seen.

Philippines-Japan economic cooperation is a pillar of the Philippines' economic rise. In 2012, bilateral trade reached a record high \$16.33 billion, with exports to Japan reaching \$9.88 billion. Japanese FDI, meanwhile, amounted to 69 billion Philippine pesos, accounting for 23.88 percent of all approved FDI, spurred by enhanced Japanese confidence in the country: Japanese investors surveyed by JETRO in 2012 rated the Philippines high in terms of profitability and good management. Japan, of course, is the country's largest source of ODA, the impact of which is visible all over the country.

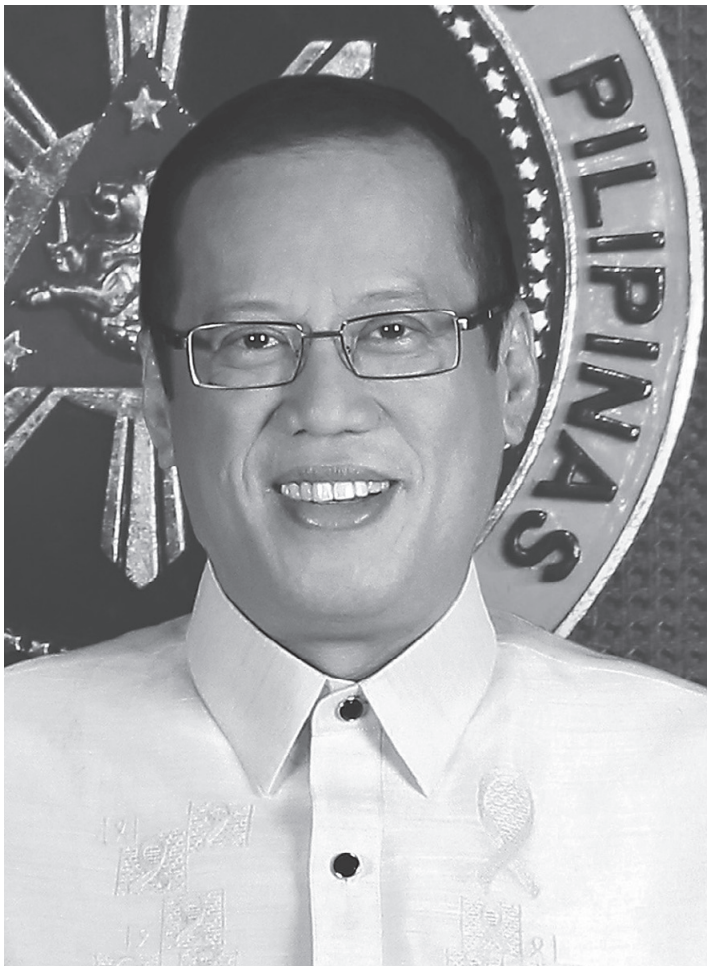
But the friendship between the Philippines and Japan has also shone in times of adversity.

In the wake of the massive devastation, loss of life and humanitarian emergency left in November by Typhoon Haiyan, the government and people of Japan were at the very forefront of an international effort to render emergency assistance, dispatching medical teams and experts, and Self-Defense Forces personnel, and committing substantial financial resources. The Philippine Embassy in Tokyo received a steady stream of Japanese visitors, from the highest-ranking officials to unassuming private citizens, who conveyed messages of sympathy and quietly donated their savings to the relief effort. Beyond the emergency response, Japan has readily pledged its support for the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs looming over the horizon.

A steady refrain echoing within the messages of sympathy received from Japan pertained to the Japanese people's abiding appreciation for the Philippines' own modest assistance to Japan in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011. This solidarity derives from centuries of deep and extensive ties between the Filipino and Japanese peoples — nowhere is our strategic partnership more visible than in the people-to-people exchanges between our countries. The vibrant Filipino community in Japan and the growing number of Japanese living in the Philippines complement tourism, educational exchanges, and the movement of professionals and workers across our borders to foster deeper understanding, and mutual appreciation between our two countries. With our two governments agreeing to expand air services between our airports and with Japan welcoming more Filipino travelers under a multiple-entry facility, our people-to-people connectivity will attain new heights.

Indeed, our two countries are bound by "kizuna," a special friendship, that at its core reflects the purpose of the president's visit to Japan: to join Prime Minister Abe and other ASEAN leaders in affirming the heart-to-heart partnership that has underpinned Japan's relationship with the countries of ASEAN. Since 1973, ASEAN and Japan have cultivated ties that have been instrumental to the dynamism of the region and the individual economies that comprise it. This partnership spans the full range of engagement, covering the political, economic, cultural and people-to-people realms, and has now grown to a point that it is able to address existing and emerging regional issues. Indeed, as Prime Minister Abe put it, ASEAN countries are "essential friends for Japan as it pursues an economic revival. They are important partners of Japan in efforts to ensure that Asian seas are free, open and stable."

The future of ASEAN-Japan relations is one of vast opportunities, but is also one rife with challenges. As ASEAN and Japan work hand in hand to build on the gains of the past 40 years, and explore new and additional avenues for enhanced cooperation, the Philippine-Japan Strategic Partnership stands to gain increased importance and relevance in charting the future of this vital relationship. The future of the Asia-Pacific region will depend in no small measure on a dynamic ASEAN-Japan relationship, one that supports not only regional economic growth but also advances a regional environment characterized by stability, order and the rule of law. The Philippines stands ready to work closely with Japan toward the attainment of this noble goal.



President Benigno Simeon Aquino III of the Republic of the Philippines

President Benigno Aquino III

The 15th president of the Republic of the Philippines, Benigno Simeon Aquino III, has come to stand for Filipinos' reinvigorated passion to build a nation of justice, peace and inclusive progress.

Aquino — the only son of democracy icons Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and President Corazon Aquino — has in different junctures throughout his life responded to the challenge of acting with and serving the Filipino people.

In 1983 after the assassination of his father, he returned from exile to help show the way for the EDSA People Power Revolution — the nonviolent and prayerful revolution by ordinary people that toppled a dictatorship, and restored Philippine democracy.

In 1998, Aquino entered public service to make sure that the democracy his parents fought for would bring changes in people's lives. He served as representative of the 2nd District of Tarlac from 1998 to 2007. In May 2007, he joined the Philippine Senate, wherein he worked to bring about legislative initiatives anchored on the protection of human rights, and honest and responsible governance.

The most despondent days perhaps in Aquino's life took place in 2009 when his mother passed away from cancer after suffering for nearly a year. Her demise prompted mourning all over the country. And yet it also awakened a remembrance of the values she stood for. It stirred the people's yearning for a leadership that is honest and compassionate, and a nation that trusts and works with its government.

Immediately after her wake, people began to call on Aquino, urging him to run for the presidency in the 2010 elections to continue his parents' work. Signature drives, and an outpouring of support through yellow ribbons and stickers went full blast, convincing him to run. Moreover, other candidates for president gave up their presidential aspirations to support Aquino.

After a spiritual retreat at the Carmelite Monastery in Zamboanga City, Aquino responded to the call to make the people's passion for change the driving force behind a new government. On Sept. 9, 2009, the 40th day after former President Cory Aquino's passing, he officially announced his candidacy for president at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan — where his mother took oath on the final day of the EDSA People Power Revolution. "I want to make democracy work not just for the rich and well connected but for everybody," he said.

On June 9, 2010, the Congress of the Philippines proclaimed Aquino as the president elect of the Philippines. In his inaugural address June 30, 2010, he told the Filipino people: "We are here to serve and not to lord over you. The mandate given to me was one of change. I accept your marching orders to transform our government from one that is self-serving to one that works for the welfare of the nation."

The presidency of Benigno Aquino III has been marked by a hardy dedication to bringing about shared progress by doing things the right way. Aquino's determination to lead the government and the nation toward the straight path has been the catalyst for unprecedented economic growth, which has trickled down to the margins of society through improved government services, reforms in the education system and conditional cash transfers for the poor; an inspired campaign for good governance and justice as evidenced by the prosecution of corrupt and abusive government officials; and the empowerment of every citizen so that they may participate in building a nation of hope and opportunity.

"My hope is that when I leave office, everyone can say that we have traveled far on the right path and that we are able to bequeath a better future to the next generation. Join me in continuing this fight for change."



Grand design: Completed in 1710, Paoay Church in the northwest corner of Luzon Island is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site as one of the best examples of the Baroque Churches of the Philippines. PHILIPPINE EMBASSY



Modern development: The night skyline of the Makati Central Business District. PHILIPPINE EMBASSY

Heartiest Welcome

to His Excellency U Thein Sein,
President of the Republic of
the Union of Myanmar,
on the Occasion of
the ASEAN-Japan
Commemorative Summit

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Singapore / Thailand



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of the Republic of Singapore

Strong partners — bilaterally and in ASEAN

Chin Siat Yoon
AMBASSADOR OF SINGAPORE

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will be in Tokyo to attend the Commemorative Summit marking 40 years of ASEAN-Japan relations.

The summit offers an excellent opportunity for the leaders to review our relations over the past four decades and, more importantly, to chart the future direction.

ASEAN-Japan friendship has grown over the years. Today, Japan is one of ASEAN's top trading partners and ASEAN's second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI), with a share of nearly one-fifth of total inbound investments to ASEAN, at \$20 billion in 2012.

Since assuming his post last December, Prime Minister



Shinzo Abe has visited all 10 ASEAN member states — the first Japanese prime minister to do so. Senior Cabinet members, including Deputy Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, have also made multiple visits to Southeast Asia. The signal, that Japan is determined to pursue a policy of even deeper engagement with ASEAN, is clear.

Singapore warmly welcomes this policy. From Singapore's perspective, Japan's enhanced engagement with Southeast Asia is good for the region and good for Japan. It will also add further impetus to Singapore-Japan relations.

At the bilateral level, Singapore's ties with Japan are strong and multifaceted. Japan was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Singapore following our independence in 1965, and our relations have blossomed in the following decades.



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Lee Hsien Loong was born Feb. 10, 1952. He graduated from the University of Cambridge with a B.A. in mathematics and a diploma in computer science. He also obtained a master's in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Before entering politics, Lee was a brigadier general in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). He attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and held various staff and command posts, including director of the Joint Operations and Plans Directorate, and chief of staff of the General Staff.

In 1984, Lee began his political career after he was elected to parliament as a candidate of the People's Action Party (PAP). In the same year, he was appointed minister of state in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Defense. He was confirmed as full minister for trade and industry in 1987, and was concurrently second minister for defense.

In 1990, Lee was appointed deputy prime minister with responsibilities for economic and civil service matters. He also concurrently served as chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore from 1998 until 2004, and minister for finance from 2001 until 2007.

Lee was sworn in as Singapore's third prime minister Aug. 12, 2004.



Pool with a view: Singapore seen from the infinity pool at Sands Skypark on top of the 57-story Marina Bay Sands complex ANDREW TIAN

Our political relations have continued to strengthen through frequent high-level exchanges. Prime Minister Lee's visit will be his second official trip to Japan this year. In May, Prime Minister Lee made a bilateral visit to Japan, during which he renewed his relations with Prime Minister Abe, and other political and business leaders. The two prime ministers met again when Prime Minister Abe visited Singapore in July, during which he delivered the 33rd Singapore Lecture on Japan's economic policies.

On the economic front, our linkages are robust. Singapore is Japan's third-largest cumulative investment destination in Asia. Singapore is also Japan's third-largest source of cumulative direct foreign investment between 1996 and 2012, after the European Union and the U.S. The Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement (JSEPA), established in 2002 and now undergoing its third review, has played and will continue to play an important role in strengthening our economic relations.

Singapore has also consistently supported Japan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. As the third-largest economy in the world, Japan's participation will add considerable weight to the strategic and economic significance of the agreement, and bring us closer to achieving the goal of a Free-Trade Area of the

Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

We also have cooperative endeavors in many other fields. These include health, security, culture and the environment. In addition, the two countries work together to provide technical assistance to third countries. Under the Japan-Singapore Partnership Program for the 21st Century (JSP21), we have jointly trained over 5,200 government officials from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific through some 300 training courses.

People-to-people relations between our countries are excellent. This manifested itself in the spontaneous outpouring of sympathy and donations among Singaporeans in the aftermath of the March 11, 2011, disasters. Some 36 million Singapore dollars were collected and channeled into four reconstruction projects in the Tohoku region. This sum, though small given the scale of the disaster, is one of the largest sums ever contributed by Singapore to disaster relief and rebuilding in a foreign country.

There remains much scope for win-win cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, and between Singapore and Japan. I am confident that the Commemorative Summit, an important milestone in our relations, will prove a memorable one that will produce an array of substantive outcomes to further strengthen the ties that bind us together.



City of contrasts: (Below) Iconic architecture makes up the skyline in dynamic Singapore. (Left) Singapore is a city of contrasts where the modern and traditional coexist. (Above) Spanning 101 hectares and housing more than 250,000 rare plants together with the unique 25- to 50-meter Supertrees, Gardens by the Bay adds to the greenery in the heart of the city. ERIC AU, JOSEPH GOH, EDWARD TIAN

Connecting ASEAN's many dots

Thanatip Upatising
AMBASSADOR OF THAILAND

This year marks the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation. Thailand is looking forward to the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit as it will provide the platform for the leaders of ASEAN and Japan to share views and discussions on various agendas for common benefit, and hopes for a constructive outcome that would help shape the future of ASEAN-Japan relations.



Since its founding in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been, and continues to be, a cornerstone of Thailand's foreign policy. As one of the founding members of ASEAN, Thailand perceives the country's progress and well-being as intertwined with that of the region and global community. We, therefore, attach great importance to enhancing cooperation and drawing strength from the diversity within ASEAN, as well as working with all ASEAN partners to identify and respond effectively to new risks and opportunities, promote trust, confidence and cooperation, in order to advance peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region, and beyond.

ASEAN rests on three pillars — political-security, socio-cultural and economic. Over the decades, Thailand has spearheaded several initiatives to ensure stability in Southeast Asia, playing a leading role in the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 1994 and the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint for 2009-2015. These frameworks will make preventive diplomacy and all existing dispute settlement mechanisms function more efficiently.

Thailand has also actively engaged in the cooperation on human rights. In 2009, Thailand was appointed chairman of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), which made significant contributions to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The kingdom was also a key participant in the drafting of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012 as well as in strengthening consultations with civil society groups.

To date, Thailand is fully committed to supporting ASEAN's mechanisms in promoting regional cooperation on nontraditional security issues such as terrorism, transnational crime, human trafficking as well as disaster management.

In 2015, the ASEAN member countries will become the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which aims to make ASEAN a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region with equitable economic develop-

ment and full integration with the global economy. Since Thailand's first proposed the ASEAN Free-Trade Area — AFTA — in 1992, we are pleased to see its advancement leading to the AEC. One of Thailand's consistent efforts to achieve this goal is to support the capacity building and economic development process of our ASEAN neighboring countries at bilateral and regional levels, as well as within ASEAN frameworks to help realize ASEAN economic integration.

In the sociocultural area, among various experiences, Thailand is determined to make ASEAN a more people-centered organization through capacity building and closer cultural ties. During Thailand's chairmanship in 2008-2009, it initiated the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and youth to increase their interaction with ASEAN. In order to create a truly united community as envisioned by the ASEAN motto — One Vision, One Identity, One Community — we share the view that all parts of society must be involved in the community-building process.

With the 10 countries of ASEAN becoming one community in 2015, Thailand recognizes the need for enhanced connectivity within the region. Thailand's strategic location at the heart of Southeast Asia and extensive transportation networks make us a natural gateway to the AEC. Thailand is a strong proponent of strengthening regional connectivity of physical infrastructure, as well as institutional and people-to-people linkages. Thus, Thailand aims to transform the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity into reality, which would strengthen the foundations of the AEC.

Currently, Thailand's logistics infrastructure is world class. Well-planned and plentiful infrastructure has led to the development of industrial clusters that allow businesses to achieve cost-effective operations. Six deep seaports and two international river ports, 28 commercial airports, and comprehensive highway and rail networks ensure logistical support for nearly 60 industrial estates in all regions throughout the country.

To strengthen regional connectivity, the Thai Council of Ministers has approved initial plans to invest around \$66 billion for the country's logistics upgrade, including high-speed trains and dual train track development, as well as better highway networks linking seaports and border facilities in order to enhance Thailand's role as the region's connectivity and logistics hub, to connect with our neighbors and contribute to overall regional connectivity by connecting ASEAN with the rest of Asia.

Japan has long been one of the most proactive partners of



Deputy Prime Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan of the Kingdom of Thailand

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan

Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan was born Jan. 25, 1948. He studied education at Srinakharinwirot University.

He currently serves as deputy prime minister and minister of commerce. Previously, he held the following positions: minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; member of the House of Representatives, Pheua Thai Party; chairman of the Executive Committee, ITV Public Co.; vice chairman of the Executive Committee, Shin Corporation Public Co.; and director of Business Enterprise and Finance, IBM Thailand Co.

ASEAN. It has long been recognized that Japan's role and assistance have helped accelerate the ASEAN Community-building process by narrowing development gaps and bringing about greater economic opportunities among ASEAN member countries. The fact that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited all 10 ASEAN member countries after he resumed the premiership, and the Five New Principles Toward ASEAN demonstrates Japan's commitment to the region.

Thailand believes that the future direction for ASEAN-Japan relations lies in fostering, and understanding different cultures and peoples, as well as enhancing physical and institutional connectivity.

Enhancing regional connectivity to seamlessly integrate ASEAN, through road, rail, sea and air links has been one of priority areas of the ASEAN-Japan partnership that will help promote growth and prosperity to the region through the development of regional economic corridors, and connect the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, through development of economic zones and deep seaports, particularly the Dawei Special Economic Zone and Deep Sea-

port. We, therefore, look forward to intensifying our cooperation with Japan to achieve this goal.

For the past four decades, through the generations, people-to-people exchange and cultural cooperation have brought ASEAN and Japan closer, and promoted better understanding. To foster closer relations, ASEAN and Japan can focus on three main areas, namely, promoting educational and training exchanges, intensify cultural cooperation and enhancing tourism.

We welcome Japan's recent relaxation on visa requirements for ASEAN countries. We have witnessed a significant increase in the number of tourists from ASEAN to Japan, which reflects our wish in promoting two-way tourism, and allows people to experience and appreciate different cultures, heritage, nature and local wisdom.

Last, let me reiterate that Thailand, as an active member of ASEAN, and "old friend and modern partner" of Japan, stands ready to serve as a "bridge for partnership" for ASEAN and Japan in enhancing cooperation in every area of common interest for peace, stability and economic prosperity in ASEAN, and beyond.



Comings and goings: (Above) Dawn breaks over the capital Bangkok. (Left) Suvarnabhumi International Airport, which is one of two international airports serving Bangkok, is ranked 6th on Airports Council International's list of the world's best airports, with the capacity to accommodate more than 40 million passengers per year. (Below) Completed in 1991, Laem Chabang is Thailand's largest port. ROYAL EMBASSY OF THAILAND



Vietnam/ASEAN history



Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Thoughts, hearts, future connected

Doan Xuan Hung
AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM

The relations between Japan and Southeast Asian countries have a long story. From the middle of the 15th century, Japanese merchants began sailing to Vietnam. At that time, Hoi An had become one of the largest harbors in the region where goods and cultures were exchanged between Japan and Southeast Asian countries. Therefore, it can be asserted that Japan and the Southeast Asia region have seized the opportunity of attaching importance to their comparative advantages in socioeconomic development. Japan is rather poor in natural resources but now is a world leader in advanced science-technology. Meanwhile, Southeast Asia, a rather large market with a population of over 600 million people, is considered as a flourishing land with cheap labor and rich natural resources.

Starting in 1973 with the establishment of a forum on synthetic rubber, the ASEAN-Japan relationship grew and deepened, with Japan's commitment to work with ASEAN as equal partners coming in 1977. For the past 40 years, this relation-

ship has been through a range of challenges, and it is therefore naturally contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia, and Asia as a whole.

The reality shows that the ASEAN-Japan relationship has been built upon mutual strategic interests and toward common objectives. As ASEAN embarks on the journey toward a single community in 2015 and beyond, Japan is always looking to strengthen its economy, trade and investment bonds with ASEAN, and sharing mutual concerns from the fight against terrorism, responding to natural disasters, maritime security, to the maintenance of peace, security, stability, development and prosperity in the region.

ASEAN undertakes an important and central role in the region, securing regional architectures that underpin peace and economic growth motivation in the Asia-Pacific. Moreover, ASEAN has over the years become a strategic partner of Japan in terms of its robust long-term economic growth as well as the vast market it provides. Japan maintained its position as ASEAN's second-biggest trading partner and FDI investor, with total trade of \$260 billion. As a result, it can be said that the ASEAN-Japan relationship has reached a new level that created a sound basis for further development in the new century.



Vietnam PM Nguyen Tan Dung

November 1961 to September 1981: Served in the army as senior lieutenant, chief political commissar of Infantry Battalion 207, captain — political chief of Infantry Regiment 152, defending the southwestern border, major — head of the personnel board of Kien Giang Province's Military Command.

October 1981 to December 1994: Studied at the high-level Nguyen Ai Quoc Party School, member of the Standing Committee of the Kien Giang Provincial Party Committee, deputy head of the provincial Organizational Board, secretary of the Ha Tien District Party Committee, permanent deputy secretary of the Kien Giang provincial Party Committee, chairman of the Kien Giang People's Committee, member of the provincial People's Council, secretary of the Kien Giang Party Committee.

January 1995 to May 1996: deputy minister of public security, member of the Central Police Party Committee.

June 1996 to August 1997: member of the Politburo and Politburo Standing Committee, director of the CPV Central Committee's Economic Commission, in charge of financial affairs.

September 1997 to June 2006: permanent deputy prime minister, Politburo member, deputy secretary of the government's Party Committee.

July 2006 to present: prime minister, Politburo member, secretary of the government's Party Committee, vice chairman of the National Defense and Security Council, chairman of the National Council for Emulation and Awards, chairman of the National Council for Education, head of the Government Steering Committee for Administrative Reform, head of the Steering Committee for Military Industry Construction and Development, head of the National Steering Committee for Climate Change Adaptation, head of the subcommittee for drafting socioeconomic development strategy for 2011-2020.



"Roof of Indochina": Located in the northwest of Vietnam, 3,143-meter-high Mount Fansipan is one of the very few ecotourist spots in the country, with about 2,000 floral varieties and 327 species of fauna. LEKIMA

Besides, the progress in ASEAN-Japan cooperation has shown that peace and development, the most important aspiration of all nations, have always been integrated as an important part of the relationship, promoting a closer and more comprehensive strategic partnership. In my opinion, based on many foundations, we can possibly cooperate, develop and act together to promote the future peace, stability and prosperity of the ASEAN Community as well as the East Asia Community, in which the ASEAN-Japan strategic partnership is a key factor.

This year, 2013, marks the final stage toward the creation of the ASEAN Community in 2015, and celebrates 40 years of diplomatic relations not only between ASEAN and Japan but also between Vietnam and Japan with a number of activities in Japan, ASEAN countries and Vietnam. Accordingly, the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, which will be held Dec. 13-15 in Tokyo, turns out to be the most remarkable political event and top of the celebrations held widely in Japan and ASEAN countries.

The summit represents the multifaceted, fruitful and effective partnership between Japan and ASEAN that has

been cultivated over the past 40 years. Though named as the Commemorative Summit, the ASEAN-Japan Summit this year is expected to have great results and a positive impact on the future of ASEAN-Japan relations. Therefore, I believe that a bright future is ahead for ASEAN countries and Japan. With many similarities and with a "thoughts connected, hearts connected and mutual trust" spirit in our mind, ASEAN and Japan will work "hand in hand" toward prosperity for their people, and for peace, stability and development over the region, and all over the world.

On the occasion of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit celebrating 40 years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, I would like to express our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, other members of the Imperial family, His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, members of the Cabinet, parliamentarians and all Japanese people, who are so friendly and hospitable. I also wish to convey best wishes to the ASEAN citizens and Vietnamese community studying and working in Japan.

Natural resources: (Left) Terraced rice paddies in Vietnam (Below) Located about 90 km south of Hanoi, Tam Coc is known for its rock formations, caves and the Ngo Dong River. LEKIMA

Some milestone years of ASEAN and the relationship with Japan

Before the establishment of ASEAN, Southeast Asia had the Association of Southeast Asia (ASA), formed in 1961 by Thailand, the Philippines and the Federation of Malaya under the initiative of Prime Minister Rahman of Malaya.

The escalation of the Vietnam War encouraged active regional cooperation. While the ASA remained dormant due to the political disputes between member nations, there emerged a fresh movement to form a new regional body encompassing Indonesia and Singapore as well.

On Aug. 5, 1967, the foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand gathered in Bangkok, and Aug. 8, they adopted the Bangkok Declaration, declaring the establishment of ASEAN. This dissolved the ASA.

The five countries shared the objectives:

- Accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region.
- Promoting political and economic stability in the region.
- Resolving various issues in the region.

Starting from a core of five nations, ASEAN has grown into one of the oldest and most successful regional groupings in the world.

ASEAN and Japan first established informal dialogue relations in 1973, which were later formalized in March 1977 with the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Forum. Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda met with ASEAN leaders at the organization's second summit in Kuala Lumpur. Since then, significant progress has been made in ASEAN-Japan relations and cooperation spanning from the areas of political-security, economic-financial, to socio-cultural.

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) program has played a particularly important role in the region's economic dynamism and continues to be a pillar of support for ASEAN's newest members. The "New Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" announced by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and his ASEAN counterparts in 1987 recognized the growing significance of private-sector cooperation in the region's growth.

The 1997 Asian financial crisis highlighted the interdependence of the region's economies and led to the establishment of the ASEAN+3 (Japan, South Korea and China) Framework two years later. To assist ASEAN countries recover from the crisis, Japan created the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund in 1999 and the Japan-ASEAN General Exchange Fund (JAGEF) in 2000.

In 2001, the ASEAN-Japan Eminent Persons Group produced a vision for Japan-ASEAN Relations in the 21st Century that proposed expanding cooperation to include international issues such as U.N. reform and the WTO.

1967 Aug. 8 ASEAN was established.

1973 ASEAN and Japan's cooperative partnership began with the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan forum on synthetic rubber.

1976 February The First ASEAN Summit was held in

Bali. At this summit, ASEAN expressed its readiness to "develop fruitful relations" and mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries of the region. The ASEAN leaders signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

1977 The 2nd ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur was the occasion for the first summit between Japan and ASEAN. Japan expressed its intention to promote cooperation with ASEAN.

1984 Jan. 8 Brunei Darussalam became a member following its full independence from British rule.

In the late **1980s** Southeast Asia regained its regional stability and made remarkable economic progress, following the end to the Cold War.

1994 July The first ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Bangkok.

1995 July 28 Vietnam became a member.

1997 The 40th anniversary of ASEAN July 23 Laos and Myanmar became members. The 1st ASEAN-Japan Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur.

1998 The 6th formal summit meeting, leaders agreed to regularly hold ASEAN + 3 (Japan, China and South Korea) summits.

1999 April 30 Cambodia became a member.

2003 December ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo

2006 October ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit in Nanning

2009 June ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit in Jeju-do

2012 December ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi

2013 The 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

2013 Dec. 13-15 ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo

Sourced from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and the ASEAN-Japan Centre.



(Left) The front page of the Aug. 9, 1967, issue of The Japan Times reports on the foundation of ASEAN. The Japan Times of Dec. 12, 2003, covers the first ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit held in Tokyo as its lead story.



We offer our support to
the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit
and welcome all delegates to Tokyo

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chairman's statement

Excerpt of 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit chairman's statement

The 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit was held in October in Brunei Darussalam, the chair of ASEAN this year. Below is an excerpt of the chairman's statement.

1. The 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held Oct. 9, 2013, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The summit was attended by all heads of state/government of ASEAN member states and H.E. Shinzo Abe, prime minister of Japan.

2. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action 2011-2015 to implement the Joint Declaration for Enhancing the ASEAN-Japan Partnership for Prospering Together. This important instrument would help to deepen and enhance ASEAN-Japan cooperation as well as contribute toward ASEAN's community building targets by 2015.

3. As ASEAN is embarking toward an ASEAN Community and an ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, we acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's relationship with its dialogue partners and external parties.

4. The ASEAN leaders appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN's role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes.

5. The ASEAN leaders encouraged Japan to continue to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations to make the ASEAN Community platform on global issues a reality by 2022.

6. We welcomed the various commemorative activities held in ASEAN member states and Japan

to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations in 2013. We looked forward to the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, to be held Dec. 13-15, 2013, in Tokyo, which would launch a medium- and long-term vision to further enhance ASEAN-Japan dialogue.

7. We noted with satisfaction the substantive work undertaken by Japan's Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, in further strengthening the strategic partnership between ASEAN and Japan.

8. We reaffirmed our commitments to further promote trade and investment between ASEAN and Japan through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. We welcomed the progress in the negotiations on ASEAN-Japan Trade in Services and Investment Chapters, and at the same time called for the substantial conclusion with further mutual benefit of these Chapters, before the Commemorative Summit to pave the way for the realization of the AJCEP.

9. We noted with satisfaction the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which would build upon the ASEAN Plus One Free-Trade Agreements, including the AJCEP. We acknowledge that the RCEP would recognize ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture, and contribute to economic integration, equitable economic development and the enhancement of economic cooperation.

10. We welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, where 66 activities, or 84.6 percent, have been implemented. We reiterate the need for our officials to effectively implement the activities to help move toward our goal of dou-



Regional ties: ASEAN leaders and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (fifth from left) join hands for a group photograph at the venue of the 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on Oct. 9. CABINET OFFICE

bling trade and investment flows by 2022. We also looked forward to convening the ASEAN-Japan Economic Forum scheduled for after the Commemorative Summit for the purpose of gaining insight from industries and academia to further strengthen economic ties between ASEAN and Japan.

11. The ASEAN leaders acknowledged the significant contribution of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund for the implementation of various projects under ASEAN-Japan cooperation. As the JAIF expires Dec. 31, 2013, the leaders encouraged the Japanese government to consider its continuation to fund mutually beneficial cooperation activities.

12. We appreciated the efforts for improving business environments through dialogue between the economic ministers of ASEAN and Japan, the secretary-general

of ASEAN and the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN, and recognized that the improvement of the business environment in ASEAN would be of mutual benefit to ASEAN and Japan.

13. We valued Japan's active support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, through the 33 flagship projects identified by Japan under the "Formation of the Vital Artery for East West and Southern Economic Corridor," and "Maritime Economic Corridor" for enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. We welcomed the completion of the Master Plan Study and feasibility study on the Establishment of an ASEAN RO-RO Shipping Network and Short Sea Shipping, and looked forward to the implementation of the development of such networks. We encouraged Japan's Task Force to support ASEAN in its timely and

effective implementation of the MPAC. We encouraged Japan to establish greater maritime connectivity as well as share its experience in promoting Public-Private Partnership.

14. We welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership for enhancement of transport connectivity and the new initiative to promote "Quality Transport." We looked forward to the new project to strengthen transport connectivity such as a New ASEAN-Japan Aviation Security Project and expansion of air links between ASEAN and Japan.

15. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center by the ASEAN leaders, which would serve as a center of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war, and shall facilitate coopera-

tion with relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining.

16. We underscored the importance of people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges to build mutual understanding and friendship between ASEAN and Japan.

17. We reaffirmed the need to enhance human resource development through education cooperation.

18. The ASEAN leaders expressed their appreciation for Japan's continued support of community building efforts in ASEAN, especially in the narrowing of development gaps. In this connection, we recognized the importance of accelerating efforts toward the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals by involving

all relevant stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society.

19. We reaffirmed our support for strengthening health systems in providing access to health services and promotion of a healthy lifestyle for ASEAN people, and agreed to contribute to the implementation of Universal Health Coverage in line with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015).

20. The ASEAN leaders appreciated Japan's contribution to human resources development, including through the annual Attachment Program at the ASEAN Secretariat.

21. The ASEAN leaders appreciated Japan's support to the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, and looked forward to its further contribution to the implementation of the second phase of the Work Program of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response 2013-2015. We welcomed the ongoing work to develop the Disaster Management Network for the ASEAN Region. We also underscored the importance of disaster prevention through information sharing and use of satellite technology for effective early warning systems.

22. We underlined the importance of enhancing our cooperation to fight terrorism and organized crime, including cybercrime, which threatens the peace and stability of the region.

23. We reaffirmed our support for the maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity, and underscored the importance of maritime security, freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce, and to ensure the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law.

24. We welcomed the 2nd Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, which

was held back-to-back with the 4th ASEAN Maritime Forum in Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 2-3, 2013.

25. We reaffirmed the importance of attaining low carbon growth, which is key to sustainable economic growth, and welcomed the outcome of the Second East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue in Tokyo on May 18, 2013, which was co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan. We also underscored the importance of personnel exchanges, knowledge sharing and transfer of environmentally friendly technology as important tools for achieving low carbon growth in the region.

26. We welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN Center for Energy-Japan Atomic Energy Agency Seminar on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, Non-proliferation and Security on June 4-5, 2013, in Vietnam.

27. We acknowledged that urbanization is a potential challenge for ASEAN and Japan, due to the rapid increase of population and economic growth, and welcomed Japan's interest to further promote this area of cooperation.

28. We acknowledged the important role played by the ASEAN-Japan Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and Japan.

29. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and called for the denuclearization of the peninsula through peaceful dialogue. We reaffirmed our commitments to implement the relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions to this end. We encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with its obligations under all relevant UNSC Resolutions and commitments. We also emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

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Nifco's group companies in ASEAN

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ASEAN human exchanges



Bon voyage: All the participating youths of the SSEAYP 2012, about 40 from Japan and some 280 from ASEAN countries, gather on the deck of the Fuji Maru, which left Yokohama on Nov. 2, 2012, and visited five ports of call in Southeast Asia before returning to Tokyo on Dec. 13, 2012. CABINET OFFICE JAPAN

Exchanges among ASEAN, Japan's young generations

In the hope that youth exchanges will help to develop country-to-country friendship and world peace, ASEAN and Japan have set up a number of youth friendship programs.

The success of such programs adds to the strong political and economic ties between Japan and the 10 ASEAN member states.

SSEAYP

The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program, otherwise known as SSEAYP, is one of the oldest programs.

The program is based on the respective joint statements issued in 1974 between Japan and

five ASEAN countries. By 2000, the program extended over the 10 ASEAN countries and Japan. More than 10,900 ASEAN and Japanese youths have participated in the program in those 40 years.

In the program some 40 Japanese youths and 280 youths from ASEAN's 10 members spend about 40 days on board ship. The M.S. Nippon Maru served the program for more than three decades from 1974 to 2008, when it was retired and succeeded by the 23,340-ton M.S. Fuji Maru. The 2013 young voyagers sailed aboard a new M.S. Nippon Maru. The youths have various exchanges on the ship and on land,

including English discussions, traditional dance or cultural performances, sports and other entertainments. They also interact with people of the countries where the ship berths, staying with families for a few days and doing other activities.

Participants are encouraged to communicate with each other after the program.

SSEAYP International, or SI, is the organization that keeps participants interacting. SI's purpose is to create opportunities for participant reunions in order to realize its goal of promoting lasting friendship, understanding and goodwill.

SI also works to develop the activities of all alumni associations through the exchange of information on a regular basis, and to contribute to society by planning and managing joint projects that respond to social needs.

JENESYS 2.0

JENESYS 2.0, a friendship program between Japan and Asia-Pacific countries that the Japanese government started in March, is the successor to JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth), which had been in practice for five years since 2007.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced in Indonesia in January that Japan will begin JENESYS 2.0 exchanges so that 30,000 youths in the Asia-Pacific region can interact with each other, in



All ashore: (Above) A participant is reluctant to leave the family with whom she stayed for a few days in Indonesia. (Above right) A program at the Saigon Tourist Travel Center focuses on nutrition. (Right) Participants experience planting mangrove nursery trees in Thailand. CABINET OFFICE JAPAN

a bid to build amicable feelings toward Japan in the region.

In JENESYS 2.0, students and youths from 39 countries and regions will be invited to learn about Japan's strengths, including "Cool Japan," cutting-edge technologies, Japanese morality, traditional and historical cultures, as well as sub-

cultures such as animation, manga and fashion.

In June, Japan invited 358 university students from the 10 ASEAN countries. The participants were separated into three groups consisting of several participants from each country: A) Economics and Social Sciences;

B) Arts, Creative Works and Culture; and C) Science and Technology. The groups visited Gifu and Mie, Kyoto and Nara, Fukuoka, Kumamoto and Nagasaki prefectures, respectively.

At locations visited related to the group theme, the participants enjoyed discussions about



issues facing their countries and/or topics related to their research, such as change in citizens' awareness of ways of life, young people's stance toward preserving traditional culture and developing the eco-friendly society.

The participants were also

bright-eyed and excited during the observation of local industries, exchanges at universities and home stay. Through the program, they established a mutual understanding and a long-lasting friendship with Japanese people, and also explored their roles in ASEAN for the future.



Exchanges: As part of the JENESYS 2.0 program, ASEAN students take part in discussions with their Japanese counterparts at Gifu Shotoku Gakuen University in Gifu Prefecture, on June 26. JICE



Overseas study: Students from ASEAN countries visit Doshisha University in Kyoto on June 28. JICE



Participating: Students from ASEAN countries enjoy activities in Japan as part of the JENESYS 2.0 program, including (clockwise from left) wearing noh masks at Ohori Park Noh Theater in Fukuoka on June 25; visiting the Oki Recycling Center in Fukuoka on June 27; a lecture by the ASEAN-Japan Centre in Tokyo on June 24; and observation of an emergency medical service helicopter at Gifu University Hospital in Gifu on June 26. JICE